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DEATH IS ONLY
THE BEGINNING
PUTTING EDGE
ADVENTURE
STARTS HERE

SUPER HEROES FROM THE MIND OF
CLIVE BARKER

Ectokid™



DIRECT EDITION



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Ectokid

IT MAKES
PERFECT
SENSE...

...THAT NOTHING THAT'S
HAPPENED TO ME MAKES
ANY SENSE AT ALL.

LIKE WHO OR WHAT
ARE THESE GUYS
CHASING ME?

AND
WHY?

AND NOW IS IT THAT
ONE INSTANT I'M HERE
IN NEW ORLEANS
ON STREETS I KNOW
LIKE OLD FRIENDS...

GET HIM!
GET--

CATCH THE
LITTLE...

GRAB
HIM!

...AND
NEXT
INSTANT...

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...I'M
NOT.

CHASE

A TALE OF THE BARKERVERSE

THOSE CHASING ME
CHANGE TOO...
THOUGH IT'S ANY-
THING BUT AN
IMPROVEMENT.

THERE'RE
MORE
OF THEM...
AND...

GOD,
THEY'RE...
THEY'RE...



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...JUST THIS MORNING, LIFE HAD SEEMED SO RICH IN OPPORTUNITY... FOR DEX MUNGIO.

THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, HIS PLAYMATE, WHO SHARED HIS SECRETS AND ABETTED HIS CRIMES.

THE MOIST AIR, UNDEARABLE FOR SOME, WAS A COMFORTABLE SECOND SKIN TO DEX.

HE'D HEARD A CORNET SOLO TWO STREETS EARLIER. ITS MELODY STILL AMBLED HAPPILY AROUND HIS HEAD.

YES...

"...A GOOD DAY..." DEX HAD THOUGHT, WITH FINGERS LIGHT AND EYES BRIGHT...



...FOR EASY FLUNDER.

"I'LL HIDE MY VALUABLES UNDER THE PILLOW. NO ONE WILL FIND THEM THERE."

HUH, DO TOURISTS LEAVE THEIR BRAINS AT HOME...ALONG WITH THEIR HONDA CIVICS?



SEEMS SO.



THO' I'LL NOT COMPLAIN--





MAYBE YOU CAN HELP US.

WE COME HERE, TO ORLEANS, A WEEK AGO, LOOKING FOR MEN.

HAVEN'T FOUND ONE YET THAT MEASURES UP.



BUT THAT WAS BEFORE YOU CAME ALONG.

THEY SAY THE BIGGEST SURPRISES SOMETIMES COME IN THE SMALLEST PACKAGES. DON'T THEY?

STEP INSIDE. LET'S... TALK ABOUT IT.



NOW I'M YOUNG. SOMETHING I'M DUMB. I ADMIT. OR I THINK WITH A PART OF MY BODY OTHER THAN MY HEAD.

BUT I'M NOT THAT DUMB... THAT YOUNG. ME, A KID... ALL BONES N' SCRAPH. THEM, THREE BEAUTIES, EACH WITH MORE CURVES THAN A BARTONE BAK.

PART OF ME KNEW SOMETHING STUNK WHEN IT... BUT... IT WAS LIKE HAD PUPPET STRINGS AND SOMEONE WAS PULLING THEM.



THE BED WAS SOFT, THEIR TOUCH... THEIR KISSES SOFTER.



ENJOYING THE MOMENT, I CLOSED MY EYES.



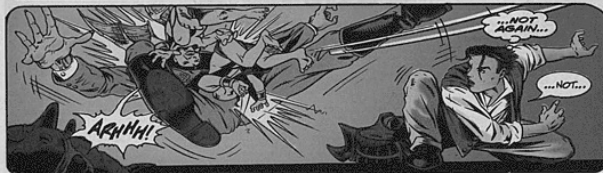
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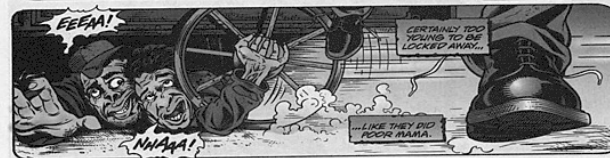
AND THEN I OPENED THEM...















...THIS ALLEY...
A SHORT CUT...
A...

...DEAD END. NO.
IN MY WORLD...IT'S
NOT... IT...



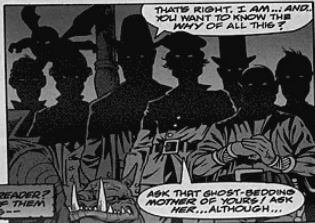
TRAPPED...
IT'S OVER...
IT'S GOING TO
DIE... AND...
I...



...I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHY.

YOU WANT
TO KNOW?

MIND READER?
ONE OF THEM
IS...



THAT'S RIGHT, I AM... AND,
YOU WANT TO KNOW THE
WHY OF ALL THIS?

ASK THAT GHOST-BEDDING
MOTHER OF YOURS I ASK
HER...ALTHOUGH...



...MUM, BUT
I ALMOST
FORGOT.

YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO GET
THE CHANCE!

LOOK
AT HIS
FACE.
SCARED.

YESSIR,
S' KINDA
FUNNY.

FUNNY?
YOU MIGHT
NOT THINK
SO...



THROUGH LUCK AND FATE AND THEIR FATHER'S WOMANIZING...
ICE AND TOM AUGUSTINE WERE BORN WITHIN SECONDS
OF EACH OTHER.

TO DIFFERENT MOTHERS...WHO BOTH DIED DURING
THE BIRTH...WITHIN SECONDS OF EACH OTHER.

RAISED BY THEIR FATHER, THE BOYS WERE TAUGHT
THE THINGS THAT REALLY MATTERED, HOW TO
SETTLE AN ARGUMENT WITH SHOTGUN OR CLAW
HAMMER, HOW TO GUT A MAN FOR LOOKING AT
THEM WRONG, (AND HOW TO MAKE A WONDERFUL
SHERRY SAUCE FOR CHICKEN, BUT THAT'S
ANOTHER STORY.)

AND THROUGH
THE YEARS,
BROTHERS
AUGUSTINE
REMAINED
TOGETHER,
INSEPARABLE.

TONIGHT, IN THE
ALGERIA AREA OF
ORLEANS THEY SIT...
INSEPARABLY
TOGETHER, WITH
ICE NOT HAPPY...

I CAN'T BELIEVE
WE TRUSTED YOU...
AGAIN!

...AND TOM NOT
CONSCIOUS.

LOOK, IT HAPPENED
SO SUDDENLY...

FOR TOM, THE
SIMPLER SOUL,
THE EMPTIER
VESSEL, IS THE
PERFECT HOST
FOR SPIRITUAL
POSSESSION.

...UNEXPECTEDLY.

WHICH BRINGS US
TO THE THIRD
PERSON HERE.

CAN'T SEE HER?

LOOK HARDER.

A
SWORDSMAN,
CYRANO...

CATHERINE
MONVOIGIN
WAS A WITCH
AND KILLER
DURING LOUIS
XIV'S REIGN.
PEOPLE OF
FRANCE KNEW
HER AS
LA VOISIN...
AND
SHUDDERED
WHEN SHE
PASSED THEM.

TIME AND DEATH HAVE DONE LITTLE TO MELLOW HER.

A FELLOW COUNTRYMAN OF MINE. STICKING HIS BIG NOSE WHERE HE SHOULDN'T.

IT'S NOT MY FAULT--

IT IS YOUR FAULT!

IT WAS YOUR PLAN, CATH. DON'T FORGET THAT. FOOLPROOF, YOU SAID.

ONE OF OUR ORGANIZATION'S SEERS TELLS US WHERE DEX MUNGO IS GOING TO BE.

HE RELAXES, AND IS DRAWN INTO THE ECTOSPHERE, WHERE HIS SOUL'S AT ITS MOST VULNERABLE...AND YOU...
G? WE'VE GOT HIM.

YOUR SUCCUBI, POSSESSING HUMAN WOMEN... THEY'RE WAITING FOR HIM THERE. THEY BEWITCH MUNGO.

OUT--

I WANTED TO GET HANDS-ON AFTER YOUR MR. FISH MESSED THINGS UP.

NO, CATH, YOU SAID WAIT SO TOM AND I WAITED. YOU WANTED ONE MORE CHANCE.

WELL, NO MORE... WAITING OR CHANCES.

TOM AND I ARE ON THIS, AS OF NOW!

THIS IS DEX MUNGO'S LAST NIGHT ALIVE...

...I HOPE HE'S
ENJOYING IT."

I GOTTA GET
SOME ANSWERS.
GOTTA FIND OUT.

FIND
OUT.

WHAT IS HAPPENING...
WHAT, AND WHY... AND...
GET SOME ANSWERS.

GOTTA KEEP MY HEAD
DOWN... STAY IN THE
SHADOWS.

AND GET SOME
ANSWERS. SEE
MY MOTHER.
GET HER TO
EXPLAIN THIS...
EXPLAIN...

OH GOD.

WHAT IS
HAPPENING
TO ME?

NEXT:

MOTHERS, MONSTERS
AND MAYHEM!